



CT-PHCC

PLUMBING-HEATING-COOLING CONTRACTORS OF CONNECTICUT

**TESTIMONY
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LEGISLATIVE CHAIR
CT PLUMBING, HEATING & COOLING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION
BEFORE THE
LABOR COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 24, 2009**

The Connecticut Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Contractors Association (CT-PHCC) **opposes HB-5515 which would allow towns and cities to adopt wage and benefit standards for Contractors.**

The vast majority of our members provide plumbing services in the residential market, which has slowed down considerably due to the economy. Permits for new home construction plunged 25 percent in Connecticut in 2008, marking the fourth straight year of declines. Customers are also very nervous about undertaking any renovations or remodeling projects.

As predominately small businesses, we are working hard to make ends meet and cutting costs where possible in order to keep our employees on the payroll and our doors open. Many small business owners are not even drawing salaries for themselves because they need to make sure they have the revenues to pay their employees.

We need to reward companies that manage to keep their doors open in this economy, rather than penalize them. Our members pay their fair share of taxes, volunteer on boards and commissions, in the Technical High Schools or in their communities or with charities. Adding to the cost of doing business will make it impossible for small businesses to continue to volunteer and donate time and resources to worthwhile causes.

Businesses must be positioned to help drive the state's economic recovery. Allowing towns to set wage and benefit standards will only drive business into the ground.

CT-PHCC is a not-for-profit trade association that represents the professional plumbing, heating and cooling contractors in the state of Connecticut. CT-PHCC and its members are committed to protecting the health and safety of the public. Contractors who belong to the association have demonstrated reliability and trustworthiness and are licensed by the state of Connecticut.